

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /073 W  
----- 064878

R 181231Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9449

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5954

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: FOUR BRITISH CITIZENS REPORTED MISSING

1. BRITISH EMB HAS KEPT US INFORMED OF TWO MISSING GROUPS  
OF BRITISH CITIZENS, ONE IN DANAKIL, THE OTHER IN TIGRE.

2. DANAKIL PARTY OF THREE BRITS (TWO VOLUNTEERS AND ONE  
TEACHER) PLUS ONE ETHIOPIAN NATIONAL OF POLISH EXTRACTION  
ENTERED DANAKIL DEPRESSION AT SERDO ON APRIL 22. DUE OUT  
ON MAY 2, THEY HAVE NOT BEEN HEARD FROM SINCE. AERIAL SEARCH  
WAS MOUNTED SHORTLY AFTER MAY 2 INCLUDING USE OF AID AIRPLANE  
MAY 7-9. SINCE THEN BRITS HAVE RECEIVED TWO SIGHTING REPORTS  
FROM ETHIOPIAN POLICE, SECOND OF WHICH SAID GROUP SEEN IN  
MERSE FATMA ON RED SEA COAST SOUTH EAST OF MASSAWA. WHEN  
BRITS ASKED ETHIOPIANS FOR HELP IN GETTING THEM OUT OF  
THERE, ETHIOPIANS CONFESSED THEY HAVE NO POLICE STATION  
THERE, FROM WHICH BRITS ARE DEDUCING THAT TOWN AND  
DANAKIL PARTY ARE IN HOSTILE HANDS. EMBASSY HOWEVER  
HAS RECEIVED NO DEMANDS OF ANY KIND FROM ANYONE CON-  
CERNING GROUP.

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3. TIGRE PARTY CONSISTS OF BRIT VETERINARIAN, WIFE AND

TWO CHILDREN WHO DISAPPEARED NORTH OF MEKELE IN EARLY MAY. VET SPENDS MUCH OF HIS TIME IN REMOTE AREAS AND USUALLY TAKES FAMILY WITH HIM. BRITS ORIGINALLY THOUGHT RETURN TO MEKELE (THEIR HOME) HAD BEEN DELAYED BY A BLOWN BRIDGE, BUT NOW HAVE REPORTS THAT FAMILY WAS CAPTURED BY UNKNOWN GROUP. LATEST REPORT THEY HAVE WAS AS OF MAY 17 TO EFFECT THAT WIFE AND CHILDREN HAVE BEEN FREED IN SMALL TOWN NORTH MEKELE, BUT HUSBAND HAS BEEN TAKEN OFF BY CAPTORS. IDENTITY OF CAPTORS NOT KNOWN, BUT BRIT EMB INCLINED BELIEVE FOR PRESENT THAT THEY SHIFTAS (BANDITS) WHO MAY NOT BE CONNECTED WITH ANY OF LIBERATION FRONTS THAT OPERATE IN THAT GENERAL AREA. AS IN DANAKIL CASE, BRIT EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO DEMANDS FROM ANYONE CONCERNING THIS GROUP.

4. FYI. BRIT EMB HAS TOLD US THEY INTEND REQUEST PERMISSION FROM EPMG TO SEND SHIP TO MERSE FATMA TO "PICK UP" THREE BRIT SUBJECTS. EPMG EXPECTED TO DENY REQUEST BUT BRIT EMB BELIEVES THE EXERCISE WILL QUIET PARLIAMENTARY DEMANDS FOR ACTION. END FYI.  
HUMMEL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, CITIZEN PROTECTION, DISSIDENT FACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 MAY 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ADDIS05954  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760192-0347  
**From:** ADDIS ABABA  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 82  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by SmithRJ>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FOUR BRITISH CITIZENS REPORTED MISSING  
**TAGS:** PINS, CASC, ET, UK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006